9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said marker is one or more drusen-associated markers.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said drusen-associated marker is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, amyloid A (α1 amyloid A), amyloid P component, C5b-9 terminal complexes, HLA-DR, complements 3, 5 and 9, complement reactive protein (CRP), immunoglobulin lambda and kappa light chains, Factor X, HLA-DR, apolipoprotein A, apolipoprotein E, antichymotrypsin, β2 microglobulin, fibrinogen, prothrombin, thrombospondin, elastin, collagen, vitronectin, ICAM-1, LFA1, LFA3, B7, IL-1, IL-6, IL-12, TNF-alpha, GM-CSF, heat shock proteins, colony stimulating factors (GM-CSF, M-CSFs), TNFα, and IL-10.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said drusen-associated marker is a phenotypic marker selected from the group consisting of RPE cell death or dysfunction, immune mediated events, dendritic cell proliferation, dendritic cell migration, dendritic cell differentiation, dendritic cell maturation and activation in the sub RPE space, the presence of disciform scars, the presence of choroidal neovascularization, and the presence of choroidal fibrosis.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said immune mediated event is detected by detecting an auto-antibody, detecting choroidal dendritic cells, detecting accumulation of leukocytes in the choroid, detecting an increase in HLA-DR immunoreactivity of retinal microglia, detecting an increase in the synthesis of type VI collagen, or detecting an up-regulation of an immune-associated molecule.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said immune-associated molecule is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, complement, complement receptors, chemokines, cytokines, CD antigens, MHC antigens, acute phase reactants, proteases, protease inhibitors, immune complexes, and antigens.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein dendritic cell maturation and proliferation is detected by detecting GM-CSF, IL-4, IL-3, SCF, FLT-3, or TNFα.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said migration and differentiation in the sub RPE space is detected by determining the presence and/or level of at least one dendritic cell marker selected from the group consisting of CD1a, CD4, CD14, CD68, CD45, CD83, CD86 and S100.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said fibrosis is detected by determining the presence or level of elastin, fragments of elastin, collagen, or fragments of collagen.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said fibrosis is detected by examining the expression of at least one marker selected from the group consisting of elastin, fibrillin-2, PI-1, PI-2, β-1 integrin, emilin, fibulins, collagens, ficolin, HME, MMPs, TIMPs, lammin, BigH3, lysyl oxidases, LTLPs, PLOD, vitronectin, MFAP-1 and MFAP-2.

36. (Amended) A method for diagnosing, or detecting a predisposition to developing, an arterial wall disruptive disorder in a subject, comprising performing an immunoassay on a sample obtained from said subject using an antibody specific for a gene product indicative of macular degeneration, wherein detection of the presence of bound antibody indicates that the subject has macular degeneration or a predisposition to developing macular degeneration and therefore has an arterial wall disruptive disorder or a predisposition to developing an arterial wall disruptive disorder.

67. (Amended) A kit for diagnosing arterial wall disruptive disorder comprising at least two antibodies selected from the group consisting of an anti-elastin antibody, an anti-collagen antibody, an anti-chemokine antibody, and an anti-vitronectin antibody.

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement